

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

**MARVEL
COMICS**

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!



**DEC
#115**



**RAAB
RUBI
KOBUSH**

EXCALIBUR

**FEATURING
BANSHEE OF
GENERATION X**

**ONE OF
THESE THREE...**

**...WILL
SACRIFICE
THEIR LIFE TO SAVE
ONE OF THEIR OWN!**



MEET

EXCALIBUR



United to preserve the dream of Professor Charles Xavier, they have sought to extend the message of the X-Men beyond the shores of America. Operating out of their headquarters on Muir Island in Scotland, they've sworn to defend mutantkind from a world that both hates and fears them, for they are... EXCALIBUR!



NIGHTCRAWLER

Nightcrawler: Born with the mutant ability to teleport short distances, stick to walls and ceilings, and turn virtually invisible when in deep shadows, the German-born Kurt Wagner is the blue-skinned leader of Excalibur.



SHADOWCAT

American-born Kitty Pryde has the mutant ability to turn her body intangible and walk on air with but a thought. Trained in the ways of the Samurai and the ninja, Shadowcat's physical prowess is balanced by her brilliant mind and her formal X-Men training.



COLOSSUS

The Russian mutant born Piotr Rasputin is the powerhouse of Excalibur. His artistic heart is masked by his cold, hard exterior, as Colossus has the ability to transform his flesh and blood into a form of impervious organic steel!



WOLFSBANE

Rahne Sinclair is the youngest member of Excalibur, but her mutant ability to transform from a shy young woman to a human/wolf hybrid and to a complete wolf makes her a force to be reckoned with!



MEGGAN

Linked to the elemental forces of Great Britain as a faerie, the enigmatic but naive Meggan has the ability to change her physical form at will, as well as the power to shape the very forces of nature to fit her needs.



BANSHEE

Once a student of Professor X himself, Irish native Sean Cassidy has now dedicated his life to teaching young mutants how to live with and employ their fantastic powers. Banshee's own genetic gift is that of a "sonic scream" that can shatter objects, enable him to fly, and induce unconsciousness in others—all depending on the intensity of the sound.



PREVIOUSLY
IN...

EXCALIBUR



KITTY PRYDE realized that DOUGLOCK has feelings for RAHNE. But Douglock was having a difficult time dealing with these emotions.

Kitty searched for LOCKHEED in the basement of the Muir Island facility. He was missing for over a week, and she was very worried about him.

However, her search was cut short when a S.H.I.E.L.D. helicopter arrived in need of her help on a top secret mission. Lockheed was in the basement but was being restrained by mysterious creatures. He managed to break free and to sneak into Kitty's suitcase when she wasn't looking.



Meanwhile, MOIRA McTAGGERT decided to put the next phase of her plan to find a cure for the Legacy virus into action; a plan she knows will have devastating effects on her family and friends.



MISSIONARIES

ABOVE CAPE WRATH,
THE NORTHERNMOST
COAST OF SCOTLAND...

...FLIES A MAN
ON A MISSION.

NEITHER A TOP
SECRET, CLASSIFIED
MISSION... NOR
ONE UPON WHICH
THE FATE OF
HUMANITY DEPENDS...

SURE, HE'S SEEN
PLENTY OF THOSE
IN HIS CAREER,
FIRST AS AN
INTERPOL AGENT...

EEEEEEEEEE

...THEN, AS A MEMBER
OF THAT OUTLAW BAND
OF MUTANT HEROES
CALLED X-MEN.

BUT ON THIS
PARTICULAR NIGHT,
SEAN CASSIDY --
A.K.A. THE BANSHEE --
HAS UNDERTAKEN
THE KIND OF MISSION
BY WHICH THE TRUEST
HEROES ARE JUDGED.

A MISSION
OF MERCY.

**BEN
RAAB**
WRITER

**MEL
RUBI**
PENCILER

**SCOTT
KOBUSH**
INKER

**RS&COMICRAFT'S
KIFF SCHOLL**
LETTERS

KEVIN TINSLEY
COLORS

KELLY CORVESE
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EXCALIBUR: Vol. 1, No. 115, December, 1997. (ISSN #1083-3609) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Joseph Carameri, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Shinn Rhodes, Executive VP, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1997 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.49 in Canada. Subscription rates for 12 issues: U.S. \$23.99; foreign \$29.99; and Canadian subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST #R123026252. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive X-masculine) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979 SANBURY, CT, 06153-1979. TELEPHONE # (783) 743-6331. Printed in the U.S.A.

FOUND FOR HIS NEW HOME AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS IN SNOW VALLEY, MASSACHUSETTS...

...A SUITCASE FULL OF FOND MEMORIES AND A WEEKEND WELL-SPENT WITH THE WOMAN HE LOVES BY HIS SIDE...

...THE ERIN-BORN MUTANT LEFT THE WORLD-RENOUNDED GENETIC RESEARCH CENTER AT MUIR ISLAND RELAXED, REJUVENATED...

...AND READY TO RESUME HIS ROLE AS MENTOR TO GENERATION X, THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUTANTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC.

THAT WAS BEFORE THE CALL.

FASTER, MAN! FASTER!

TIME'S A WASTIN'!

I'VE NEVER HEARD RAHNE SINCLAIR SO FRIGHTENED -- SO ABSOLUTELY TERRIFIED -- IN ALL MY LIFE!

IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO GET HER TO CALM DOWN AND EXPLAIN WHAT WAS HAPPENIN'!

EVEN THEN, I'M STILL NRE QUITE SO SURE WHAT SHE MEANT...

ARGGH! WHAT'S THAT NOISE, CAP'N? TAIN'T HUMAN!

SURE'N IT AIN'T! 'TIS AN-OTHER ONE O' THEM BLEEDIN' SUPER HEROES! ONE O' THOSE MUTIES, NRE DOUBT!

SHE JUST KEPT REPEATIN' -- "MOIRA'S KILLIN' HERSELF!" OVER AN' OVER!

BUT HOW...P AND PA LORD'S SAKE --
-- WHY...P



Och,
Mr. Cassidy!
YE MADE
IT!

GREETINGS,
COMRADE/ LONG
TIME... NO SEE!

TOP
O'THE EVENIN'
T'YE, LAD AN'
LASS!

NOW,
WOULD ONE
OF YE PLEASE
EXPLAIN T'HE WHAT
ON EARTH IS GOIN'
ON 'ROUND
HERE?



I'M SO GLAD YUIR
HERE, SEAN. YE'VE
GOT TAE TALK LADY
MOIRRA OUT O'
THIS!

IT'S --
SNIFF! --
SUICIDE!



EASY,
LASSIE. NAE ONE'S GONNA
DO NOTHIN' STUPID
LIKE THAT, NOT WHILE
ANY O' US'RE
HERE.



RIGHT,
RASPUTIN?

DA,
TOVARISCH.



OUCH!
STILL GOT THAT
IRON GRIP, YA
COLOSSUS?

HA!

AND
HOW ABOUT
YOU...P

ARE
YOUR POWERS
HOLDING UP AS WELL?
PROVIDING A FINE
EXAMPLE FOR YOUR
STUDENTS...P



CONSIDERIN' WHAT THOSE KIDS JUST LIVED THROUGH, IT'S HARD T'TELL IF THE WHITE QUEEN AN' I ARE EVEN MAKIN' A WHITT'S DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES.

WE TRIED HIDIN' OUR STUDENTS FROM THAT BLACK-GUARD BASTION'S 'OPERATION: ZERO TOLERANCE'...



"... BUT IT WAS ONLY A MATTER O'TIME BEFORE OUR COVER WAS BLOWN.



"FIRST... HE KIDNAPPED POOR, WEE JUBILEE.

"LORD KNOWS WHAT KINDS'O ATROCITIES HE SUBJECTED HER TO, BUT SOMEHOW SHE MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

"THE REST O'THE KIDS FLED WEST -- ALL THE WAY T'LOS ANGELES -- BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP THE PRIME SENTINELS FROM HUNTIN' 'EM CLEAR ACROSS THE COUNTRY.



"SAINTS BE PRAISED THAT THEY ALL SURVIVED -- RELATIVELY INTACT -- BUT I MUST CONFESS...

"... THOSE FEW DAYS SPENT FRETtin' OVER GENERATION X REALLY REMINDED ME O'HOW IMPORTANT OUR EXTENDED FAMILY IS.

"NAE JUST T'HE WORLD, WHEN TIMES'RE TOUGH FOR HOMO SAPIENS AN' HOMO SUPERIOR...



"... BUT T'EACh OTHER."

● THESE EVENTS TRANSPiRED DURING WHICH BIRD'S CHECK 'EM OUT IF YOU ALREADY HAVEN'T. J. KELLS



I THOUGHT OUR LITTLE
PICNIC HAD KNOCKED
A MODICUM O'SENSE
INTO MURRAY'S
HEAD...

... THAT SHE FINALLY
UNDERSTOOD IT'S OKAY
TO GET AWAY FROM THE
LAB -- AWAY FROM
HER LEGACY VIRUS
RESEARCH...

... SO
HER MIND
COULD HEAL,
ALTHOUGH
HER BODY
COULDN'T.

A
VALIANT
ATTEMPT,
SEÁN -- ALBEIT
FUTILE.

YOU,
OF ALL PEOPLE
SHOULD KNOW
HOW SHE
GETS.

OBSSSSIVE,
FANATICAL,
DRIVEN.

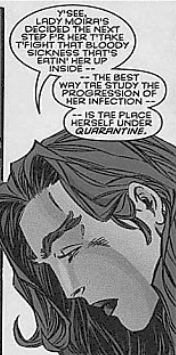
TAE
THE EDGE
OF A DEEP DARK
HOLE FROM WHICH
THERE'S NO
RETURN, WE
FEAR.

© 1998 GEMINATOR
31,302-11 KILLAM



BUT IF
THERE'S
ANYONE IN THE
WORLD WHO CAN
BRING HER BACK
FROM THAT
BRINK...

... IT'S
THE MAN SHE
LOVES!



BEHIND THE DOOR
SITS A WOMAN
WITH A MISSION.

HER FINGERS DANCE
ACROSS THE KEYS OF
A COMPLEX COMPUTER
NETWORK WITH THE
DEFTNESS OF A
CONCERT PIANIST.

THE INSIDE OF THIS
LAB HAS BEEN THE
WHOLE OF HER
WORLD EVERY DAY
FOR WHAT SEEMS
LIKE COUNTLESS
MONTHS....

... BUT SO MUCH MORE
THAN JUST THE FUTURE
OF MANKIND HANGS
IN THE BALANCE NOW --
SO MUCH MORE THAN
EVEN HER OWN LIFE...

... FOR DR. MOIRA
MAC TAGGERT IS
ON A MISSION OF
HOPE.

LIFE
SUPPORT...P
CHECK. FOOD
SUPPLIES...P
CHECK. TEMPORARY
VACCINES...P
CHECK.

AND IF SHE FAILS TO
FIND A CURE FOR THE
LEGACY VIRUS...

... ALL HUMANITY
MAY LIKELY BE
DOOMED.

EVERYTHING CHECKS OUT.
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO
SEAL THE DOOR AN' GET
ON WITH IT.

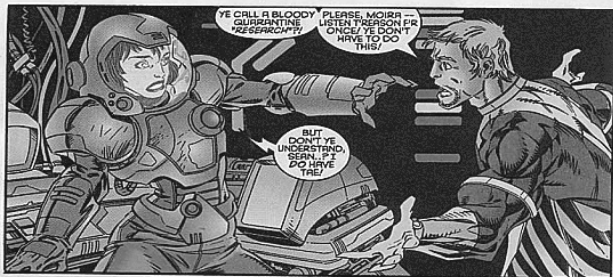
LORDY,
BUT I'M GONNAE
MISS EVERYONE. I'M SO
GLAD SEAN AND I HAD
ONE LAST MOMENT
TOGETHER...

AN' WHO SAID
IT HAS T'BE
THE LAST?

WHO
THE BLOODY --P?
SEAN?

RYE,
A CHUSSE, I
THINK YE'RE MAKIN'
A HUGE MISTAKE,
LUV.

Heh. What're ye 't'is just another
talkin' about, boyo?
DAY O' RESEARCH
F'R ME!



LOOK... THE FOLLOWING
PEOPLE ARE ALL VICTIMS
OF THE LEGACY VIRUS.

SOME HAVE DIED.
SOME ARE LIVING WITH
THE SICKNESS. AND WHILE
THERE SEEMS TO BE NO
OVERT CORRELATION FROM
ONE TO THE NEXT --

-- I BELIEVE
THEY DO SHARE
ONE VERY COMMON...
AND TERRIFYING...
TRAIT.



"AFTER ALL, WHAT
LINK COULD
EXIST BETWEEN
MASTERMIND,
AN **ILLUSIONIST**...



"...**INFECTIA,** A
BIONTECHNIST...



"...**ILLYANA,** A
TELEPORTER...



"...**REVANCHE,**
A **TELEPATH**...



"...**MULTIPLE**
MAN, A **GENETO-**
MULTIPLIER...



"...**PYRO,** A
PYROTECHNIC...



"...**MAVERICK,** A
KINETIC ENERGY
ABSORBER...



"...**CHRIS BRADLEY,**
AN **ELECTRO-**
GENERATOR..."



"...AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
ME -- A NON-MUTANT HOST
FOR A MUTANT-SPECIFIC
DISEASE?

NONE, RIGHT? WRONG.
THIS SEEMINGLY
RANDOM DISPERSAL
PROVES, BEYOND A SHADOW OF
A DOUBT, THAT THE "NATURAL"
PATTERN OF THE LEGACY VIRUS
IS ONE OF CHAOS...

"...A GENETIC
ANARCHY FOMENTED
BY THE ULTIMATE
"CHOS-BINGER" --

STRIFE!





WHAT'RE YE SAYIN' WOMAN? THAT STRYFE WAS AN "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EXECUTIONER"?! THAT

THERE'S NEITHER RHYME NOR REASON TAE THIS? THAT IT'S JUST DUMB LUCK THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE GOT SICK WHILE OTHERS HAVEN'T?

AN' THAT ANYONE AT ANY TIME COULD BE INFECTED TOO? HOMO SAPIENS OR HOMO SUPERIOR?



AYE, LEGACY'S AS UNPREDICTABLE AS IT IS RISEBORNE, SEAN.

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELIN' THAT ANY MOMENT NOW, PEOPLE -- REGARDLESS O' THEIR GENETIC PREDISPOSITION -- ARE @RUNNAE START FALLIN' LIKE DOMINOES.

TAE GOT TAE GIVE 'EM A FIGHTIN' CHANCE AT LIFE... TAE KEEP THEIR HOPE ALIVE.



BUT AT THE RISK O'YUIR OWN?!

COMES WITH THE TERRITORY. YE KNOW THAT.

AYE, IT'S JUST -- NO.



YE'RE RIGHT.

AS ALWAYS.

TELL HER YE'RE WORRIED SICK, CASSIDY.



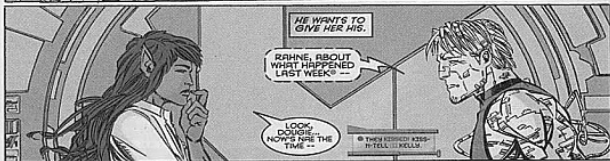
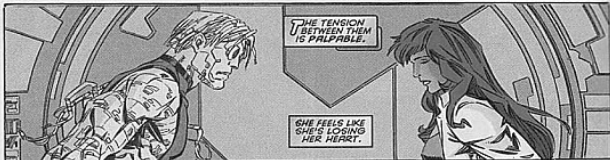
TELL HER SHE'S AS STUBBORN AS OLD AHAB HIMSELF, CHASIN' A "WHITE WHALE" THAT COULD BE THE DEATH O'HER!



OR, BETTER YET...? DON'T TELL HER ANYTHING.

SUPPORT HER DECISION... ENCOURAGE HER TO DO WHAT SHE MUST...

... AND PRAY THAT HER DAUGHTER EVER FORGIVES YOU.





THEN, WITH A SILENCE
THAT SPEAKS LOUDER
THAN WORDS, BANSHEE
EMERGES FROM THE LBS...

... AND ALL THE WALLS RAHNE
SINCLAIR ERECTED TO DAM THE
INEVITABLE TIDE OF TRAGEDY SHE
FEARED WOULD WASH OVER HER...

Y-YE GOT
HER TIE CHANGE
HER MIND -- DIDN'T
YE, SEAN?



... CRUMBLE.

O-D-I-N-T
Y-E-P

RAHNE...
SWEETHEART --



-- WE NEED
T-TALK.

POOR RAHNE. IT
KILLS ME TO SEE
HER LIKE THIS.

I WANT TO REACH OUT
TO HER -- TO JOIN WITH
HER -- SO THAT MY
INNER STRENGTH MIGHT
REVITALIZE HER AND
ERADICATE HER PAIN.



AFTER ALL, THAT'S
WHAT MY PEOPLE DO
IN TIMES OF INTERNAL
SYSTEMS CRISIS.

ALAS, THAT IS NOT THE
WAY OF THE HUMANS. THEY
MUST FIND OTHER WAYS
TO MEND THEIR WOUNDS.

SOMEHOW -- SOME
WAY -- I WILL HELP
MEND RAHNE'S.

PETE WISDOM
HATES MISSIONS.

MISSIONS REMIND
HIM OF BLACK AIR.

BLACK AIR REMINDS
HIM OF HIS PAST.

A PAST THAT WAS, DESPITE HIS
BEST EFFORTS, COME BACK TO
HAUNT HIM AND HIS NEW-FOUND
ASSOCIATES WITH A VENGEANCE.

© AS SEEN ON EXCALIBUR
— STEVE
ONE-SHOT — KELLY

MOST SPECIFICALLY,
EXCALIBUR'S TEAM
LEADER — NIGHTCRAWLER.

TEK
TEK
TEK

NOW, WITH THE AID OF THEIR SEMI-
FUNCTIONAL CYBERNETIC MUTANT
TRACKING SYSTEM, CEREBO...

FLK

... WISDOM SEARCHES FOR
HIS MISSING COLLEAGUE.

C'MON, YA
BLASTED MACHINE!
DO WHAT YER
BUILT FOR!

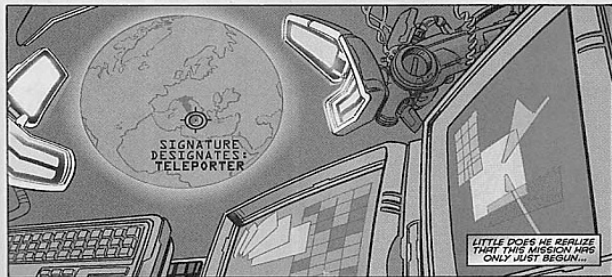
LOCK ON
TO WAGNER'S
MUTAGENETIC
SIGNATURE... AND
FIND HIM!

Whoop

SCANNING...
SCANNING...
SQUARK!

BZZZT

WOT THE --
OUCH!





"DEAREST MEGGAN..."

"...I KNOW IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE MY LAST LETTER -- AND I'M AWFULLY SORRY -- BUT THINGS HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WEIRD HERE IN DARKMOOR, AND I'M AFRAID MY LITTLE MISSION TO 'FIND MYSELF' HAS YIELDED SOME RATHER SURPRISING AND UNEXPECTED RESULTS.

"SUFFICE IT TO SAY, BY THE TIME I RETURN TO EXCALIBUR, THE BRIAN BRADDOCK YOU FIRST FELL IN LOVE WITH SHALL BE BACK IN YOUR ARMS.



"...CAPTAIN BRITAIN WILL ASCEND TO HIS FORMER GLOAM BEFITTING A TRUE PROTECTOR OF THE REALM.

"...HUSBAND AND WIFE.

"...AND WE SHALL AT LAST BECOME THE PEOPLE WE HAVE TRIED SO HARD, FOR SO LONG, TO BE..."



"FROM MY HEART TO YOURS, BRIAN."



NOK NOK

UH, MEGGAN... I HEARD A SCREAM.



IS... E... EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?



MEANWHILE, IN THE COMM-ROOM...

SO, SHE'S REALLY GONNA DO IT, WHIF?

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE... IF YOU ASK ME.

WHICH I DIDN'T, EMMAL. I JUST CALLED YE F'R A WEE BIT O' EMOTIONAL SUPPORT.

IT'S THE LEAST YE CAN GIVE ME AFTER ALL THE MALARKEY YE PULLED THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

MISTAKE NUMBER ONE, SERM M'BOY. YOU WANT MY SHOULDER TO CRY ON...

EXPECT A COLD ONE.

BEGORRAH, FROST -- HAVE YE NOT A CARING BONE IN YUR BODY?

RELAX, "MR. HYPERSENSITIVE."

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I DON'T WANT HER LOCKED IN THERE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO.

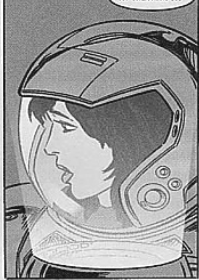
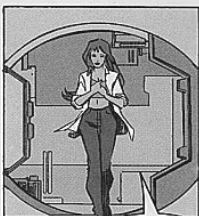
I MEAN, SOMEONE HAS TO PLAY THE "HALL GUY" WHEN THIS PLAGUE STARTS SPREADING.

TA TH!

CLK

THAT INSENSITIVE... SELF-CENTERED...
GRRR!

WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?





PLEASE,
MUM, DINNER,
LOCK YOURSELF
AWAY FROM ME
LIKE THIS!

CAN'T
YE JUST WEAR
THAT ENVIRO-
SUIT OUT
HERE..P

OH,
SWEETIE... I
WISH IT WERE
THAT SIMPLE.

STRYFE
ENGINEERED
LEGACY TO BE THE
DEADLIEST PLAGUE
THIS WORLD HAS
E'ER SEEN.



FOR ALL WE KNOW, EVEN
THIS SUIT IS NINE PROTECTION
AGAINST ITS CONSTANT
MUTATIONS.

BESIDES, I NOW NEED TO
EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF THIS
VIRUS ON SOMEONE TOTALLY
ISOLATED FROM ANYONE
OR ANYTHING.

THIS IS MY LIFE'S MISSION,
RAINE... THE VERY REASON
I BECAME A SCIENTIST IN
THE FIRST PLACE.

THE SOLVE
THE PROBLEMS
THAT NINE ONE ELSE
COULD... REGARDLESS
OF THE COST.



I KNOW I'M ASKIN'
A LOT OF YE, LIV --
BUT, PLEASE BE
STRONG.

FR ME..P



I --
I WILL, LADY
MORE, I LOVE
YE...

AND I
YOU, RAINE.
SO MUCH.





SO.

SO.

THERE'S NO
TURNIN' BACK ONCE
THAT DOOR SEALS
MAGNETICALLY
SHUT.

NO ONE
GETS IN OR OUT
UNTIL YE'VE FOUND
A CURE F'R
THAT DAMNABLE
DISENSE...

THANK
YE, SEAN --
F'R NAE TRYIN'
TAE STOP
ME.

WOULD
IT HAVE DONE
ANY GOOD IF
I HAD?

NOPE.

THOUGHT
SO.

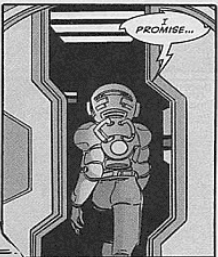


YE'RE THE
BRAVEST WOMAN
I KNOW, MORRIS
MCTAGGERT.

PLEASE
COME BACK
BLIVE A
CHUSLEP.



I WILL,
LUV.



I
PROMISE...

MOIRA MACTAGGERT
HAS BEEN MANY THINGS
TO RAHNE SINCLAIR.

MUMMY...
NOOO!

A HEROINE WHO
RESCUED HER FROM
CERTAIN DEATH AT THE
HANDS OF A HOWLING
MOB.

A MOTHER WHO LOVED
AND RAISED HER AS IF
SHE WERE HER OWN
KITH AND KIN.

RAHNE?!

ARE YOU
CRAZY, LASS? THE
DOOR IS AUTOMATED
ON A TIMING
SEQUENCE!

A MISSIONARY WHOSE CHARITY
KNEW NO BOUNDS. EVEN WHEN
THE ROLE COIN SHE COULD OFFER
WAS HER LIFE.

BUT THAT'S NOT A
CONDITION WOLFSKINE
IS WILLING TO ACCEPT.

ONCE IT CLOSES IT CAN'T BE
OPENED, EVEN FROM THE
INSIDE!

**GRAB
HER!**



SWAMPSTORY

Dear Swordstrokes,

I've really been enjoying what you've done with EXCALIBUR lately. The stories have gotten more and more interesting by the issue! The only problem I have with the book is this: Shadowcat's costume! Her code-name is Shadowcat! How can she blend in with the shadows in her day-glo yellow? Kitty does her best work when she's using her abilities for more covert operations that require subterfuge, but she isn't very subtle with her current costume! What's the use of being able to walk through walls if everyone can practically see you on the other side of the wall? A sleek black costume with a mask (she just always looked so cool when she had a mask!) might suit her powers and talents better.

But really, I enjoy the book totally. Everything that's been going on lately has been great. The whole Dragons of the Crimson Dawn storyline really drew me in. Keep up the great work, guys! (But get Kitty a new costume!)

Jason Hellmann
Coram, NY

Well, Jason, I am sure some like Kitty's costume means a lot to you! We'll see what we can do, but we can't make any promises! Besides, the blue and yellow suit may not be the most stealthy, but blue and gold are the colors of the X-Men, and Kitty's proud of her "uncanny" past as an X-Man. But then again, we've seen how many costumes Kitty's gone through as Ariel, Sprite, and finally Shadowcat, so you never know when the fashion bug might bite her again.

Dear Swordstrokes,

I enjoyed the story and struggle between Captain Britain and the Dragons of the Crimson Dawn more than anything I've read in EXCALIBUR since I first picked it up during the Phoenix crossover. I hadn't seen much of Captain Britain or Meggan, really, and didn't know much about them. They seemed relegated to a second tier in the book. But Brian absolutely shone in this storyline and I fell in love with his character—just in time to see him lose his powers and leave the group. I don't believe it will be permanent, but I already miss him terribly. Please don't keep him gone long.

I'm also hoping for more Douglock and Wolfsbane. They have a deep love that's a treasure to see. I'd also like to say (I'm probably in the minority here) that I've always believed that Kitty and Colossus belong together. Pete Wisdom doesn't do much for me as either a hero or a character. Is there any chance Brian will interact soon with his sister Betsy? She's neck deep in the Crimson Dawn business herself, and it seems she and Brian would and should compare notes. Besides, they're siblings. Don't they ring each other up once in a while?

Sally Cutler
Imlay City, MI

Thanks for the letter, Sally! Captain Britain and Meggan sure aren't second tier in our eyes! Sorry if it's seemed that way lately. Hope you enjoyed their being in the spotlight for a bit! Although Captain Britain is out of the picture for a while, don't miss Meggan's more than peripheral involvement in the COLOSSUS one-shot written by EXCALIBUR's own Ben Raab and pencilled and inked by Bryan Hitch and Paul Neary, respectively. If you can now, so run out and grab it! It's on sale today!

And since you like Wolfsbane and Douglock so much, be sure to check out the NEW MUTANTS limited series written by Ben Raab (doesn't this guy ever sleep?), pencilled by Bernard Chang, inked by Mark Pennington, and on sale in September! They're both going to be major players in that story, along with some of the other members of the old New Mutants team. As for Brian and Betsy, Brian doesn't need to call his twin sis. She's a telepath, remember? Tee-hee.

Dear EXCALIBUR,

First, let me congratulate you guys on doing an outstanding job on the artwork. It's fabulous, so keep up the good work.

I have only one question: What is Mr. Sinister going to do with Rachel Summers' DNA that he got from Sienal Blaze back in issue #74. Will we be seeing another Dark Phoenix anytime soon?

Patrick Slavikovich
Lakewood, CA

Dark Phoenix? Dark Phoenix??? Ravager-of-worlds-and-destroyer-of-us Dark Phoenix? Man, we sure hope not.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: EXCALIBUR
2. Publication No.: 004-206
3. Filing Date: October 1, 1992
4. Issue Frequency: MONTHLY
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$25.00 (12 issues)
7. Complete mailing address of known office of publication: 3287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016. Contact Person: Thomas Maltz, 3287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016
8. Complete mailing address of headquarters of general business office of Publisher: Same
9. Full names and complete mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Stan Lee, 3287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. Editor: Kelly Colburn, 3287 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016; Managing Editor: MUA
10. Owner (If owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Approximately 75% of the Ownership Stock of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. is owned indirectly through wholly-owned subsidiaries by Marvel Parent Holdings Inc., and the balance of Marvel's Common Stock is publicly owned. The shares of Marvel's Common Stock are listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Complete Mailing Address: Marvel Parent Holdings Inc., 1000 North Andrews Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities. None, check box NA None.
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. (Check one.) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: A) Not changed during preceding 12 months. (If changed during preceding 12 months, (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.) B) Changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: EXCALIBUR
14. Issue Date for Circulation data below: SEPTEMBER
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation
- A. Total No. Copies (Printed (not press-run) Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 156,023. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 154,600
- B. Paid and/or requested circulation (1) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors and Counter Sales: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 119,127. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 92,844. (2) Paid or requested mail subscriptions: Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2,000. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 1,825
- C. Total Paid and/or requested Circulation (Sum of 15B(1) and 15B(2)): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 121,147. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 94,672
- D. Free Distribution by mail (samples, complimentary, and other free): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 206. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 183
- E. Free Distribution outside the mail: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 0
- F. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15D(1) and 15D(2)): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 206. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 183
- G. Total Distribution (Sum of 15C, 15F, 15G): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 121,353. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 94,855
- H. Copies not distributed (1) Office use, leftovers, spoiled: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 34,668. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 125. (2) Returns from News Agents: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 0. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 99
- I. Total (Sum of 15G, 15H(1), and 15H(2)): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 156,023. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 154,600
- J. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15C / 15G x 100): Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 77.6%. Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 99
- K. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Anna Fierman, Marketing Coordinator 10/1/92

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

DESIGN BY COMICART

PAUL
TILLOTNE
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

MATT
IDELSON
EDITOR

BOB
HARRAS
CHIEF

SWAMPSTORY
3287 PARK AVENUE SOUTH • NEW YORK, NY 10016

IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO BE USED IN THE SWAMPSTORY LETTERS, PLEASE PRINT "NO" FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

E-MAIL:
MAIL@
MARVEL.COM

MAIL: E-MAIL
"GOAT TO PRINT"